

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 11 and 13 are amended. Claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 are canceled. Upon entry of the amendment claims 1-8, 11-16 and 19 are presented for reconsideration by the Examiner.

Claims 3 and 13 are amended to obviate any 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections properly raised by the Examiner. The Trademark VITON has been removed from claims 3 and 13. Buna N (nitrile) Rubber and fluorosilicone are well-known, well-established terms of art. See the attached pages from Chambers's Technical Dictionary for identification of Buna N (nitrile) Rubber. Applicant believes the amendments to claims 3 and 13 obviate the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections of those claims made by the Examiner.

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,525,226 to Brown et al (hereinafter Brown). Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended to recite in pertinent part as follows:

Claim 1 recites in pertinent part as follows:

cartridge seal means for sealing said cartridge to a conduit received through said axial opening in said upper surface; and
wherein said cartridge seal means and said elastomeric spring comprise a unitary molded component.

Claim 11 recites in pertinent part as follows:

cartridge seal means at said axial opening for sealing said cartridge to a conduit received therethrough; and
wherein said cartridge seal means and said spring comprise a unitary molded component...

Brown does not disclose, teach or suggest that the elastomeric spring should be a unitary molded component including "cartridge seal means for sealing said cartridge to a conduit received through said axial opening in said upper surface" (Claim 1). Brown does not disclose, teach or suggest that the spring comprise a unitary molded component including "cartridge seal means at said axial opening for sealing said cartridge to a conduit received therethrough" (Claim 11).

Claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the disclosures of Brown for at least these reasons.

Claims 2-8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons stated in support of claim 1.

Claims 12-16 and 19 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 11 and are patentable for at least the reasons stated in support of claim 11.

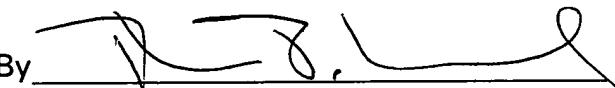
Terminal Disclaimer Enclosed

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer. The assignee of record disclaims any term of a patent issuing on this application that would extend beyond the term of U.S. Patent No. 6,364,121. The Terminal Disclaimer obviates the obviousness type double patenting rejection of claims 1-19.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1-8, 11-16 and 19.

Respectfully submitted,

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